Directives to States for environment protection

738. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether he had issued certain directives to the State Governments and Union territories to strictly enforce the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the Indian Forest Act, 1980;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) to which extent the State Governments/Union Territories are following these directives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) The Government has not issued any directive to State Governments and Union Territories under the Environmet (Protection) Act, 1986.

The 'Indian Forest Act' was enacted in the year 1927 and not in 1980. The 'Forest Conservation Act' was enacted in the year 1980. The Government has issued the following directives to the states with reference to the Forest Conservation Act, 1980:

(1) No forest land should be diverted for non forest use in anticipation of the approval of the Central Government.

(2) The State Governments/Union Territories should strictly observe the conditions stipulated in approvals given by the Central Government for diversion of forest land which have been approved earlier.

Only two violations have come to the notice of the Central Government after the issue of the directives. These violations occurred in Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.

Import of second-hand capital goods

739. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports of second-hand capital goods are proposed to be banned on the basis report of a high powered Committee; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the imports of capital goods are to be made only in respect of the latest high-technology machines for speedy growth and to meet challenges posed by unemployment and also for improvement in the living standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) A high-powered Committee on capital goods has been set up by the Ministry of Industry with a view to streamline the procedure of import of capital goods. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

(b) One of the major objectives of the present import policy on capital goods is to accelerate the pace of technological upgradation and modernisation of the industry and achieve the maximum growth. The policy is kept under constant review keeping in view the needs of the economy.

Pollution standard set by CPCE

740. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pollution standards set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for sulphur dioxide is 120 micrograms per cubic metre as against 65 in the USA;

(b) whether the CPCB standards for suspended particles are also 500 micrograms per cubic metre as against 75 in USA;